

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE
150 YEARS OLD**

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS PESTICIDE EXAM SCHEDULE

UMASS Eastern Extension Center—240 Beaver St., Waltham

APRIL 26. Deadline for submitting application is **APRIL 19.**

MAY 10. Deadline for submitting application is **MAY 3.**

QUESTIONS CALL—617-626-1785.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE BRIEFS: RUSSIA, CUBA

Children at the Regional Children's Rehabilitation Center in Vladivostok, Russia, were the initial recipients of the first-ever humanitarian aid distribution of fresh apples from the United States in late January.

In a pioneering project made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) "Food for Progress" food aid program, the Global Jewish Assistance and Relief Network (GJARN) in partnership with U. S. apple growers plans to distribute 110,000 boxes of fresh apples from Virginia and Washington states to needy Russians.

The Jan. 29 distribution of fresh apples to Russian orphans marked the first time that fresh fruit was included in a U.S. government food aid program.

The Cuban government announced its intent March 6 to purchase 1,000 metric tons of U.S. apples, opening a door that has been closed for more than 40 years.

Cuba's Alimport, that country's import agency, wrote U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt (R-Wash.) and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) to request their assistance in identifying interested Washington state suppliers of Red Delicious apples.

Rep. Nethercutt is a leading advocate of congressional efforts to lift the agricultural trade embargo against Cuba as supported by USApple, while Sen. Cantwell recently lead an agricultural trade mission to Cuba.
(Article from *USPAPPLE APPLE NEWS*, March 2002)

ASIAN LADY BEETLE MAY PROVE TO BE FRUIT PEST

It isn't enough that homeowners must battle to keep the multicolored Asian lady beetle out of their homes, now fruit growers must contend with another one of the insect's behavioral quirks: an insatiable appetite for sugar.

Ohio State University entomologists have documented large numbers of Asian lady beetles feeding on peaches, grapes and apples, but whether the damage found on the crop is caused primarily by the insect, or by another host has yet to be determined.

"We've heard from field reports that 25 percent of some of the peach crop was damaged this season due to something nibbling on the fruit. Originally we thought it might be grasshoppers," said one entomologist. "Then we started finding large numbers of lady beetles aggregating on damaged and undamaged fruit and are questioning whether they could do this type of damage."

The multicolored Asian lady beetle, though considered a pest because it tends to hone in on homes as overwintering sites, does have beneficial characteristics in that it feeds on aphids, scale insects and other agricultural pests. Its diet restriction of insects, however, is what makes the lady beetle's craving for nectar rather unusual.

"There is some unique behavioral shift going on that we don't understand yet that is causing the lady beetle to change its feeding preferences," said the OSU entomologist. "Between about September 1st and October when it heads off to find overwintering sites, there is a drop-off in aphid feeding and the insect's attraction to black light traps. They are interested in neither and seem to be going for the fruit."

If researchers' speculations hold true, the news won't bode well for fruit growers. "Peaches and grapes are at a greater risk because their soft skin is easily damaged."

The short time window that the lady beetles aggregate on the fruit is also a dilemma for growers who spray their orchards. "There are restrictions on certain pesticides that require one to wait several days after spraying before the

fruit can be harvested,” said the entomologist. “We are currently looking at several chemicals that have a shorter life that could be applied within this time window.”
 (Source: OSU News)

APPLE SHIPMENT TRACKING

Source: USDA

Amounts are shown in units of 10,000 pounds

Season Begins					
SEPTEMBER	03/24/02-03/30/02	03/17/02-03/23/02	03/25/01-03/31/01	Total this season 03/30/02	Total last season 03/31/01
	11,670	10,568	13,300	285,316	330,473

MID-WEEK F.O.B. PRICES AT MASSACHUSETTS COUNTRY SHIPPING POINT

Prices and grades received by telephone, APRIL 23, 2002

Controlled Atmosphere

VARIETY	GRADE	SIZE	PRICE
McINTOSH	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s	19.00
		96s	18.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	12.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	14.00
EMPIRE	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s	18.00
		96s	17.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	11.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	13.00
RED DELICIOUS	Cartons Tray Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s & 88s	13.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	11.00
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	13.00

FEDERAL MARKET NEWS SERVICE, EVERETT, MASS.

APRIL 22, 2002

Controlled Atmosphere

NEW ENGLAND

McINTOSH	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s & 96s	18.00
		100s	20.00-21.50
		120s	15.00
	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Fancy	80s & 96s	11.00-12.00
	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. No. 1	80s	12.00
		100s	9.00- 9.50
		120s	10.00-11.00
		140s	9.00-10.00
CORTLAND	Cartons Film Bags U.S. No. 1	12-3s 2-1/4" min	10.00-11.00
	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. No. 1	72s	15.00
		80s	12.00-15.00 mostly 15.00
GOLDEN DELICIOUS	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/4" min	15.00-16.00
GOLDEN DELICIOUS	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s & 88s	20.00

ROME	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	64s	20.00
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. No. 1	12-3s 2-1/2" min	12.00
SHIPPED IN			
McINTOSH	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	80s & 100s	19.00-21.00 mostly 20.00
	Lake Champlain Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	80s	22.50-23.50
		100s	20.00-22.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. No. 1	80s	11.00
		100s	10.00
		120s	9.50
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBg U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-1/4" min	10.00
EMPIRE	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	88s	16.00
		100s	15.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBg U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	9.00
		12-3s 2-1/4" min	9.00
RED DELICIOUS	NY Hudson Valley Ctns TryPk U.S. ExFcy	80s	15.00
		88s	14.00
	Western Section Ctns TryPk U.S. ExFcy	80s	16.00
		88s	15.00
		100s	13.50
	WA Cartons Tray PackI WAExFcy	64s	16.00-17.00 fine appear. 19.00-21.00 mostly 20.00
		72s, 80s, 88s	16.00-17.00 fine appear. 19.00-21.00 mostly 20.00-21.00
		100s	16.00-17.00 fine appear. 18.00-20.00
		113s	16.00-17.00
		125s	15.00-18.00 mostly 16.00-18.00
GOLDEN DELICIOUS	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	64s	25.00-27.00
		72s	25.00-27.00 mostly 26.00
		80s	23.00-24.00 mostly 24.00
		88s	24.00-24.50
		100s	22.00
		113s & 125s	18.00
	WA Cartons Cell Pack WAExFcy	80s	26.00-27.50
		96s	24.00-25.50
ROME	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	80s	15.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBg U.S. ExFcy	12-3 2-1/2" min	9.00-10.00

RED ROME	PA Cartons Cell Psack U.S. ExFcy	80s	15.00
CRISPIN	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	56s	15.00
		72s	16.00
		80s	15.00
ROYAL GALA	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	88s	28.00
FUJI	PA Cartons Tray Pack U.S. ExFcy	100s	19.00
	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	56s	22.00-24.00
		64s & 80s	23.00-25.00
		88s	22.00-25.00 mostly 24.00
		100s	21.00-22.00
	Western Section Ctns FlmBg U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	13.00
JONAGOLD	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	80s	22.00
CAMEO	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	72s	25.00
		80s	22.00-24.00
		88s	24.00-24.50
BRAEBURN	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	80s	24.00
		88s	24.50
PINK LADY	WA Cartons Tray pack WAExFcy	88s	30.50-34.00 mostly 31.00-32.00
GRANNY SMITH	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	64s & 72s	26.00-28.00 mostly 27.00
		80s	24.00-27.00 mostly 25.00-26.00
		88s	23.00-25.00 mostly 23.00-24.00
		100s	19.00-21.00 mostly 20.00
		113s	18.00-19.00
		125s	17.50-18.00
	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	16.00-17.50
CIDER	New England Preserved Cartons	4-1 gallon bottles	9.00- 9.40 mostly 9.00
		9 ½-gallon bottles	10.00 best 11.25
Howard Vinton, Editor			

